

Kindling Thoughts

A ONE DESIRE Devotional
From Pastor Scott



January 13, 2025

We're off! Our 2025 ONE DESIRE Prayer & Fast has officially begun. In Sunday's sermon we looked at Romans 12:11 and learned that biblical zeal is marked by an enthusiasm and swiftness to put our convictions in motion and our passions in action. Biblical zeal is pictured as a fire heating up water to the point of boiling over.

"Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord."

point

-Roman 12:11

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Our times of prayer and fasting are simply ways we posture hearts as an environment conducive for the Lord to light the flames that will increase our zeal. These spiritual disciplines are like laying out small, dry pieces of kindling wood, ready to be lit and burn hot. We don't start the fire. That's the role of the Holy Spirit. However, we can do our best to prepare for it.

Throughout our ONE DESIRE Prayer & Fast, occasionally I'll be sending you some brief "sticks" of devotional kindling to help you position yourself before God's throne of grace as you cry out, "Increase Our Zeal, O Lord!"

To get you started...

What Gets My Focus

There's no better place to start than with a reality check. So, ask yourself, "What gets the central focus of my heart and life?"

As you ask the Lord to increase your enthusiasm for His glory, you might find it helpful to ponder Caleb's story a bit more. (*If you need a refresher, check out Numbers 13:1-14:25.*)

Get into Caleb's skin. As you do, consider one thing. In the face of all the challenges and pressures assaulting him, what was the focus of his inner being? Of all the legitimate problems and pitfalls that lay before them, what was the one thing Caleb chose to set in the crosshairs of his focus?

In Joshua 14:14 Moses tells us Caleb "*wholly followed the Lord, the God of Israel.*" In Numbers 14:24, God said, "*But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.*"

Caleb had made his decision. Beyond all the clutter of his circumstances, he placed God at the center of his focus.

Spending time in dedicated prayer during our fast begins with a decision. What will I decide to set on center stage of my soul? What will get the undivided attention of my heart? This decision is 100% yours.

Coming before the Lord, through prayer and fasting, is a fearful and wonderful privilege. But if we want God to do a mighty work in our hearts, there's no sense avoiding the core issues dwelling at soul level.

A Helpful Exercise

So, as you begin your prayer and fasting journey, ask the Lord to reveal what lies at the center of your life's focus.

Something I find helpful is to grab a piece of paper and start spilling out my mind's thoughts of the things that tend to occupy the focus of my heart. Allow the Spirit to help you identify anything that's bullies you for attention.

Be brutally honest with yourself. There's no fear, because the Lord already knows.

These things may be robbing you of your enthusiasm for the Lord and His glory! Recognize the empty promises these things offer you in exchange for your worship. After all, that's what our "focus" truly is – worship.



Let's Get Started

Start this year's ONE DESIRE prayer and fast by making the most important decision of the year: What will I choose to be the central focus of my daily life?

*“O Lord,
Increase my zeal for your glory and the impact of my L3 L.I.F.E..
Help me identify anything other than you that occupies the central focus of my life.
Give me strength to resist its empty appeal for my attention.
Make my heart beat as one with yours, O Lord my God. Amen”*

Well dear friend, I can already hear the crackling of the fire begin. I trust the Lord is already beginning to increase your zeal for His glory.

May the Lord bless you as you live a L.I.F.E. marked by Zeal!